

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 H-03 AID-20 NSC-07 PM-07 SP-03

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 L-03 EUR-25

PRS-01 EB-11 IGA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

AGR-20 DRC-01 /152 W

----- 011593

O R 251245Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9167

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T CAIRO 7505

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID EG JO SY

SUBJECT: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT AND CONTINUING RESOLUTION

REF STATE 209927

1. APPRECIATE RATIONALE FOR ACTION REPORTED REFTEL, BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IT WILL BE REGARDED HERE AS A BLOW BETWEEN THE EYES. EGYPTIANS HAVE LONG BEEN AWAITING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON MUCH TOUTED \$250 MILLION FOR EGYPT. UNLESS WE CAN BE MORE SPECIFIC AS TO EXACTLY HOW WE "FULLY INTEND TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH ALL COMMITMENTS WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST," ANY SUCH ASSURANCE IS LIKELY TO BE REGARDED AS VACUOUS. SADAT WILL FIND IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN DOMESTICALLY AND TO HIS ARAB AND OTHER FOREIGN CRITICS. HE WILL BE PLACED IN HIGHLY EMBARRASSING AND CONCEIVABLY DANGEROUS POSITION. SO FAR AS WE AWARE, EGYPT IS THE ONLY TOTAL LOSER FROM CONTINUING RESOLUTION PROCEDURE, SINCE ISRAEL AND JORDAN WILL AT LEAST CONTINUE TO GET SOMETHING. SYRIA, SO FAR AS WE AWARE, WAS NEVER PUBLICLY

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PROMISED ANYTHING. SOVIETS AND THEIR EAST EUROPEAN

ALLIES WILL CROW, "WE TOLD YOU SO." AND, OF COURSE,
WHAT DO WE DO WITH ALL OF OUR JOINT WORKING PARTIES?
THEY CANNOT LIVE BY TALK ALONE.

2. IN MY JUDGMENT, BEST WAY TO HANDLE SUBJECT IS IN A
PERSONAL LETTER FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO PRESIDENT SADAT,
WHICH I COULD DELIVER. HOWEVER, WHETHER WE NOTIFY
SADAT THROUGH SUCH LETTER OR ORALLY, IT IS IMPORTANT
HE ALSO BE TOLD WHAT WE PLAN TO DO. DOES THIS MEAN
ANY US AID FOR EGYPT (EXCEPT PL -480) MUST NOW AWAIT
GOING THROUGH SOME TORTUOUS PROCEDURE IN FY-76?
OR IS IT CONCEIVABLE THAT, SINCE THERE SEEMS TO BE
CONSIDERABLE CONGRESSIONAL SENTIMENT FAVORING AID FOR
EGYPT, AN ATTEMPT MIGHT BE MADE TO ATTACH RIDER TO SOME
OTHER BILL, WHICH WOULD THEN PROVIDE THE PROMISED
\$250 MILLION FOR EGYPT?

3. REQUEST URGENT CLARIFICATION ON ABOVE POINTS.
ALSO APPRECIATE KNOWING IF SECRETARY PLANS TO DISCUSS
SUBJECT WITH FAHMY, WHO IS CURRENTLY IN NEW YORK.
EILTS

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NNN

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